



1655

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Emmanuelle Guillot et al.

Serial No.: 09/529,217

Filed: June 5, 2000

For: MEANS FOR QUALITATIVE AND
QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF
MICROBIAL POPULATIONS
POTENTIALLY PRESENT IN A
SAMPLERECEIVED
DEC 7 2001TECH CEE
Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: Jehanne Souaya

Atty Docket: 21029/0196

#9/B
Meffay
12/12/01RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2001 please amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-23 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of qualitative and quantitative analysis of microbial population(s) comprising:

contacting microorganisms present in a sample with at least one specific probe to form a probe-target complex, wherein the specific probe recognizes a RNA target sequence under conditions favorable to *in situ* hybridization in whole cells,